



HOLMES RUN/ CHAMBLISS CROSSING

Notes – Public Meeting #1

March 18, 2009

1. Add sanitary lines on map exhibit. These are large and important existing lines.

These will be added.

2. Who controls/manages Lake Barcroft?

Lake Barcroft Watershed Improvement District (LBWID) is the controlling agency for the lake.

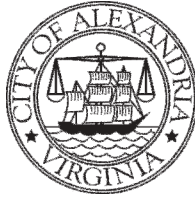
3. Are other studies considering sources of stormwater?

The US Army Corps of Engineers Cameron Run/ Holmes Run Feasibility Study is looking at preventative stream bank erosion measures along the entire length of Holmes Run. The LBWID study is focusing on coordinating with local jurisdictions within the Lake's watershed in regards to emergency planning and preparation during major flooding events.

4. Will entire bank be stabilized or just the area of the crossing?

The Holmes Run/Chambliss Crossing project as funded by the Virginia Dept. of Transportation will focus on stream bank stabilization within the immediate vicinity of the proposed crossing. The reason for this is that the source of federal funding for this project is directed towards transportation improvements, not stream bank improvements.

However, the City seeks to restore/stabilize the stream in the area of the proposed crossing (regardless of crossing type) such that the crossing/restoration/stabilization can function in such a way that each enhances rather than destabilizes the other. As of March 31, 2009, the City has received monies of acceptable size to undertake the design and construction of the restoration/stabilization of Holmes Run immediately adjacent to Holmes Run Parkway between Chambliss and the City limits. These funds are in our water quality improvement account.



5. Why does the crossing have to occur at the bottom of the hill?

The study will be exploring a safe and appropriate location for the crossing, taking into account the approach from both the Fairfax County and Alexandria sides.

6. What is driving the need for a crossing?

The City Council 2006 Strategic Plan has one of its primary goals “An Integrated, Multi Modal Transportation System that Gets People from Point "A" to Point "B" Efficiently and Effectively.” This location has been a designated as a high-priority regional trail connection since at least 1998 when the “Chambliss Street Connector” project was listed as the third most important off-street connector in the “Bicycle Transportation and Multi-use Trail Plan” approved that year by City Council. The project was also included in the 2006 Alexandria Open Space Plan as the top priority action for Years 3-5: “Establish new trail crossing of Holmes Run at Chambliss Street.” The project is a major regional connection now that Fairfax County has completed its 1.5-mile Holmes Run Stream Valley Trail from Glen Hills Park to Columbia Pike.

7. Is there any record of a 1954 agreement between the city and civic association?

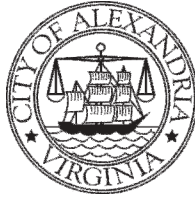
The City has no record of such an agreement. If any citizen has more information, please contact Mr. Yon Lambert at (703) 519-3400 x 183.

8. Does this project provide a bike route to new BRAC location?

If completed, the crossing would provide an important off-road trail connection for bicycle commuters between Alexandria and Fairfax County.

9. Can a crossing be constructed without stabilization?

It may be possible but proper stream bank stabilization is highly desired.



10. Are there erosion concerns with a crossing structure?

Yes, erosion is a consideration in any type of crossing.

11. What are the safety concerns regarding the fair-weather crossing and bridge crossing?

A fair weather crossing option may be wet for much of the time. This may cause algae build up and could become slippery. Also, debris may float up onto the crossing and become a tripping hazard. It may also act as a fish blockage.

A bridge may be an impediment for large debris floating downstream during a major storm event. Depending on the size and impact of the debris, this may cause structural damage to the bridge.

The City will be exploring several options to minimize safety issues related to the crossing.

12. Is this project being coordinated with Lake Barcroft?

Yes. The City will be coordinating with Lake Barcroft regarding this project.

13. Have severe storms damaged the Fairfax County trail in the past?

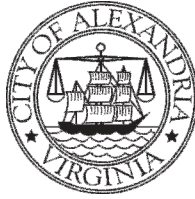
Yes. However, Fairfax County has been proactively repairing its trails.

14. Would a fair weather crossing be more resilient?

It is possible but the study will, in part, make a recommendation about a sustainable structure.

15. Will the project conduct counts for bikers/pedestrians along Holmes Run Parkway?

The City does regular counts on its trail system. No specific counts will be performed for this study as there is no facility currently in place.



16. Will this project alter the floodplain?

The study will help make this determination.

17. Will removal of trees effect the floodplain?

We will not be removing any healthy mature trees as part of this project. An expanded stream bank stabilization/restoration project may require some tree removal.

18. Will effects of crossing and hydrology be presented?

Yes, this will be presented at a future public meeting.

19. Have surrounding fair weather crossings been washed out?

No, Fairfax County has several fair weather crossings along Holmes Run that are operational.

20. Who controls the stream banks?

On a day to day basis, the City controls its side of Holmes Run and Fairfax County controls its side.

21. Are numbers of users lower now because there is no crossing?

The City assumes that since this trail is perceived as a “dead end” there are fewer users than if there were to be a crossing.

22. Is there an opportunity for a temporary trail on Morgan Street?

Not at this time.



23. What are the benefits of increased connectivity?

The benefits of increased connectivity include:

- Less people relying on automobiles for work, getting around = less traffic.
- Safer trails, more people = “more eyes on the trail”
- More recreational opportunities

24. Where are wetlands located?

There are no wetlands located in the project limits. Some wetlands are located within Dora Kelly Nature Park.

25. What are obstacles in Dora Kelly to get to the crossing?

South of the project area, the Holmes Run Greenway is a well-used facility with several bridges, one tunnel, an underpass and two fair weather crossings. The City has actively been upgrading these areas to enhance the trail experience.

26. What is the status of mitigation funding through the BRAC project for stream stabilization?

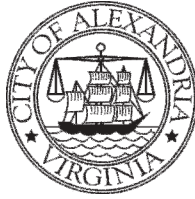
Please see the answer to question #4.

27. Is there a possible third type of crossing – pipes under fair weather crossing (for fish)?

This will be explored in the study.

28. Could this become a major bike commuter route?

Yes, this could potentially become a commuter route for cyclists.



29. This crossing would be a good connection from 4 directions.

This point will be addressed in the future meetings and in design.

30. Where is funding coming from?

This project is being funded by a \$750,000 federal grant through Regional Surface Transportation Program funding administered by the Virginia Department of Transportation. The project is 100% federal funds and does not include any city match.

31. Is the funding limited to crossing?

Yes, given the specific nature of the funds, the federal RSTP funding is specifically designated to a narrowly defined project area as identified in the city's agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation.

32. Will it be possible to include lighting in the area of crossing?

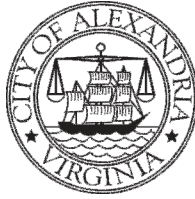
This will be explored during the study phase and communicated future public meetings with the community.

33. How will safety in surrounding areas be affected?

Based on past experience in Alexandria and other similar urban areas, greater use of a trail enhances the safety of the surrounding area since there are more "eyes on the street." In addition, the City will be coordinating with the police department to insure that they are aware of the progress of this project and may increase patrols as needed.

34. Will it be possible to increase the police presence in this area?

Please see answer to question 33.



35. Some residents feel that the isolation of the neighborhood is a crime deterrent. Will a crossing change this?

Please see answer to question 33.

36. Can the city bike police patrol the trail?

Please see answer to question 33.

37. Would the trail remove the bicycle traffic from roads?

It is possible. The intent of linking the two sides of Holmes Run is to improve the overall connectivity of the off-road trail system thus giving people a mobility option.

38. Would this change the operating hours of Dora Kelly Park?

No, this project will not change the current hours of operation of Dora Kelly Park.

39. Can citizens give notice to police to step-up bicycle patrols in certain areas?

Yes, the City encourages Citizens to have a good relationship with the police department and keep them informed about their neighborhood.



40. How can we protect people from falling over bank – is there a yellow tape interim solution?

The yellow construction tape is a temporary measure to warn people to stay away from the bank. It is NOT designed to keep people from falling over if they lean or approach the bank. Future stream bank stabilization design will provide a safer edge along the top of bank.

41. Does the City have any temporary stabilization solution options (i.e. gabions)?

The City is currently not exploring any temporary stabilization solutions. Again, the goal is to eventually merge a crossing and permanent restoration/stabilization effort. The hydraulics and hydrology will guide the type of stabilization required.

42. What will the character of the bank be grass or trees?

See answer to question 41.

43. Is Fairfax County considering any type of stabilization?

At this time, the City is not aware of any plans by Fairfax County to perform stream bank stabilization in this area.